

- 1 1. A method, comprising:
2 detecting movements associated with a locking element based on a sequence of signal
3 interruptions caused by the movements, the locking element restricting access to a restricted-
4 access space defined within an enclosure; and
5 based on the sequence of signal interruptions, actuating the locking element to gain
6 access to the restricted-access space.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 representing at least part of the sequence of signal interruptions as a sequence of digital
3 logic levels;
4 comparing the sequence of digital logic levels with a previously-entered code to ascertain
5 an equivalence therebetween; and
6 based on ascertaining the equivalence, actuating the locking element to gain access to the
7 restricted-access space.
- 1 3. The method of claim 2, further comprising:
2 based on ascertaining the equivalence, identifying a user authorized to access the
3 restricted-access space.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 generating an audible signal indicative of at least part of the sequence of signal
3 interruptions.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2 identifying an operating mode based at least partly on a portion of the sequence of signal
3 interruptions, the operating mode corresponding to at least one of a code change request and an
4 access request.

1 6. The method of claim 5, further comprising:
2 generating an audible signal indicative of the identified operating mode.

1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein detected movements correspond to manipulations of a
2 door handle.

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the sequence of signal interruptions correspond to
2 interruptions in an optical signal.

1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the locking element corresponds to a solenoid in a lock.

1 10. The method of claim 1, wherein the enclosure corresponds to at least one of an
2 automobile, a boat, an airplane, a building, a container, and a cabinet.

1 11. A method, comprising:
2 detecting movements associated with a user interface based on a sequence of signal
3 interruptions caused by the movements, the user interface affecting at least one operation of a
4 vehicle;
5 comparing indicia of at least a portion of the sequence of signal interruptions with a
6 previously-stored code; and
7 based on the comparison, performing the at least one operation of the vehicle.

1 12. The method of claim 11, further comprising:

2 generating a human-perceptible signal indicative of the sequence of signal interruptions.

1 13. The method of claim 11, wherein the user interface corresponds to a door handle of the
2 vehicle and the detected movements correspond to manipulations of the door handle.

1 14. The method of claim 13, wherein the at least one operation of the vehicle corresponds to
2 at least one of a manipulation of a locking element restricting access to at least a part of the
3 vehicle, a manipulation of a window of the vehicle, and an ignition of the vehicle.

1 15. The method of claim 11, wherein the sequence of signal interruptions correspond to
2 interruptions in an optical signal and the compared indicia correspond to a sequence of digital
3 logic levels.

1 16. The method of claim 11, wherein the at least one operation of the vehicle corresponds to
2 at least one of a manipulation of a locking element restricting access to at least a part of the
3 vehicle, a manipulation of a window of the vehicle, and an ignition of the vehicle.

1 17. A system, comprising:

2 a locking element restricting access to a restricted-access space defined within an
3 enclosure;

4 a movement-detection element detecting movements associated with the locking element
5 based on a sequence of signal interruptions caused by the movements; and

6 a control element receiving indicia associated with the sequence of signal interruptions
7 from the movement-detection element and actuating the locking element to provide access to the
8 restricted-access space in response thereto.

1 18. The system of claim 17, further comprising:

2 a feedback element generating a human-perceptible signal indicative of at least part of the
3 sequence of signal interruptions.

1 19. The system of claim 17, wherein the locking element corresponds to a solenoid in a lock.

1 20. The system of claim 17, wherein the enclosure corresponds to at least one of an
2 automobile, a boat, an airplane, a building, a container, and a cabinet.

1 21. The system of claim 17, wherein the movement-detection element includes a signal
2 emitter and a signal detector, the signal detector detecting the sequence of signal interruptions in
3 an optical signal transmitted by the signal emitter.

1 22. The system of claim 21, wherein the optical signal exhibits an infrared wavelength.

1 23. The system of claim 21, wherein the signal detector transmits the indicia associated with
2 the sequence of signal interruptions to the control element.

1 24. The system of claim 23, wherein the indicia associated with the sequence of signal
2 interruptions corresponds to a sequence of digital logic levels.

1 25. The system of claim 17, wherein the control element compares the indicia associated with
2 the sequence of signal interruptions with a predetermined code to determine whether to actuate
3 the locking element.

1 26. The system of claim 17, wherein the control element identifies an operating mode based
2 at least partly on a portion of the sequence of signal interruptions, the operating mode
3 corresponding to at least one of a code change request and an access request.